

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF IRISH POSITION ON PARIS SUMMIT

REF: DUBLIN 1612

SUMMARY

1. BRUSSELS PRESS CORPS DID NOT HIGHLIGHT FITZGERALD'S COMMENTS DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. IRISH AND ITALIAN VIEWS ON REGIONAL FUND WERE COVERED BRIEFLY IN STORIES ON THE NOVEMBER 11 EC-9 POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. FINANCIAL TIMES SAID, "ITALY AND IRELAND HAVE STILL NOT YET FORMALLY ACCEPTED THAT SUMMIT SHOULD BE HELD". GUARDIAN REPORTED FITZGERALD AND THE ITALIAN DELEGATION SAID THEY COULD NOT AGREE TO A SUMMIT WITHOUT ASSURANCES IT WOULD "BRING A FIRM AGREEMENT" ON FUND. LONDON TIMES CORRESPONDENT WROTE, "THE UNCLASSIFIED

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IRISH AND ITALIAN MINISTERS WERE PREPARED, TACTICALLY

AT LEAST, TO BLOCK THE ENTIRE EXERCISE UNLESS THEY HAD SOME ASSURANCE THAT AN ADEQUATE REGIONAL FUND WOULD EMERGE FROM THE PARIS MEETING", BUT WORKING ASSUMPTION WAS THAT THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 9 AND 10.

3. INFLUENTIAL EUROPE BILLETIN (BRUSSELS) SUMMARIZED IRISH, ITALIAN AND UK VIEWS, SAYING IRISH "MGONSIDERED THAT THE COMMISSION'S PROGRAMME...DOES NOT ENSURE THEM ENOUGH.... SUMMING UP THE DEBATE, .4. SAUVAGNARGUES ALSO CONSIDERED THAT THE SUMMIT COULD NOT CONFINE ITSELF TO A MORE OR LESS VAGUE STATEMENT BUT THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO ARRIVE AT A DETAILED 'PROGRAM'".

4. EUROPEAN REPORT (BRUSSELS) SAID THAT COMMISSION WAS CRITICIZED REGARDING ITS FUND PROPOSAL WITH SAUVAGNARGUES CALLING IT A "RELIEF FUND, RATHER THAN A TRUE REGIONAL FUND, REFERRING TO THE CONSIDERABLE CUT IN PROPOSED EXPENDITURE." THE ARTICLE NOTED THE IRISH GOVERNMENT SAW A SOLUTION TO THE FUND PROBLEM AS "A TEST OF THE LIKELY VALUE OF THE UPCOMING SUMMIT."

5. LE MONDE CARRIED BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY PROPOSAL AND SAID THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT "HAS ALREADY MADE KNOWN THAT IT IS NOT INCLINED TO ACCEPT." THERE WAS NO MENTION OF IRISH POSITION. SIMILARLY, FIGARO CARRIED SHORT REFERENCE TO FRENCH POSITION WITHOUG MENTIONING IRISH.

6. FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE SAID THAT IRISH AND ITALIANS EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN A FUND. SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG SAID SIMPLY THAT "DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS (ITALY)" WAS PUT ON THE LIST OF DESIRED SUMMIT AGENDA ITEMS BY THE UK.

7. COMMENT: WE CONCUR WITH ASSESSMENT REFTTEL. IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT IRELAND, OR ANY OTHER MEMBER FOR THAT MATTER, IS LIKELY TO BLOCK THE PROPOSED SUMMIT.
END COMMENT.MYERSON

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